

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AGR-05 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 /099 W
----- 129755

R 231745Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5335

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 1222

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, IT, FR, EFIN

SUBJECT: WINE AND LIRE-NO TRADE RESTRICTIONS EXPECTED

REF: ROME 971 (NOTAL), (B) ROME 1030, (C) ROME 1117

1. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF "WINE WAR" STATUS IS THAT GOI
WILL NOT TAKE ACTION AGAINST FRENCH IMPORTS IN NEAR FUTURE.
ACCORDING TO ALL INDICATIONS, CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR IMPOSITION
OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS AIMED AT FRENCH IMPORTS ARE UNDER
PREPARATION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY BANK OF ITALY DIRECTOR
GENERAL OSSOLA TO TREASATT, WHO INDICATED HIS FEELING THAT
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THERE WAS SOME LIKELIHOOD THAT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED

AT SOME TIME. HOWEVER, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY DIRECTOR
GENERAL FOR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS TRIOLI, WHILE CONFIRMING
PREPARATORY WORK, TOLD ECMIN THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION
TO PUT THESE INTO EFFECT IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ONLY HOPED THAT SETTLEMENT

OF WINE WAR COULD BE REACHED SOON SO THAT
GOI WOULD NOT BE PRESSURED INTO IMPOSING RESTRICTIONS.

2. DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN (A) IMPOSITION OF
FORMAL TRADE RESTRICTIONS (WHETHER ACKNOWLEDGED AS AIMED AT
FRANCE OR NOT) AND (B) ACTIONS BY GOI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
DESIGNED TO HARASS FRENCH IMPORTS WHILE REMAINING WITHIN
THE LETTER OF LAW AND REGULATION. SOME POSSIBLE ACTIONS
OF THIS TYPE WERE MENTIONED REF B. WE BELIEVE IT FAR MORE
LIKELY THAT ANY ACTION BY GOI WOULD BE OF LATTER TYPE,
ALTHOUGH, AS STATED ABOVE, WE BELIEVE THAT NO ACTION IS
IMMINENT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO MEASURES TO DEFEND THE LIRA, EMBASSY
NOTES THAT BOI NOTICE TO OTHER CENTRAL BANKS OF CLOSING
OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS (REF A) SPECIFICALLY STATED
THAT NO TRADE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED. THERE HAVE
BEEN NO RPT NO INDICATIONS TO THE CONTRARY, AND TRIOLI TOLD
ECMIN CATEGORICALLY THAT NO RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE IMPOSED.
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Message Attributes

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